

SECRETNATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506~~SECRET~~System II
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July 8, 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN BIRD

National Intelligence Officer for Warning
National Intelligence Council

SUBJECT: NSC Watch Functions (U)

Although we haven't spoken in a couple of months, I wanted to apprise you of the progress we have made in establishing our own internal mechanisms for warning senior members of the NSC and White House staffs of potentially serious worldwide developments. (S)

Under the new White House Situation Support Staff, we have established a Watch Committee composed of our Director of the Situation Room, our Director of Operations, a number of our situation analysts and me. This Committee meets on a daily basis to keep our staff and the watch teams attuned to potentially serious issues. The situation analysts meet once a week to forecast upcoming developments and discuss how they might impact policy makers. The results of this meeting are included in a memo to the NSC staff senior directors which highlights the situation and what actions, if any, are being undertaken by the Intelligence Community to collect information pertaining to these events. In addition, we disseminate a weekly Emphasis List -- a one-page summary of issues of interest to the White House -- to Washington area operations and intelligence centers. (S)

// We closely follow NIO/Warning activities and consistently use your reports in our daily and weekly deliberations. In our memo to the NSC senior directors, we frequently draw upon material from your reports which bears directly on the developments we are tracking. Without exception, we have found NIO/Warning products to be informative, descriptive of U.S. interests, and of uniformly high value. (S)

// Because of our close association with your efforts, we would welcome any recommendations you might have concerning the watch functions we have established here, or ideas on how we could collectively improve the national security information and situation management system. With regard to this latter point, // we have taken steps to reconvene the Crisis Management Working Group -- with representatives from key federal departments and

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agencies -- to review progress toward NSDD 95-mandated improvements to the system, and to take necessary action to improve inter-operability. Your thoughts on appropriate subjects for this forum to consider would be appreciated. Please feel free to call me at 395-7310. (S)

Faithful

Lou Michael
Deputy Executive Secretary
(Situation Support)

cc: D/WSHR
D/OPS
Fred Wergeles

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